

Arlington Town Meeting — Motion to Amend

Article No. 50

Dated: 5/2/2024

I, Xavid Pretzer, do hereby submit the following Motion to Amend Article 50:

To amend the main motion by striking the entirety of item (2)(m), removing CPA funding for the “Foot of the Rocks” Battlefield Memorial project.

Comment:

I have great respect for the Community Preservation Act Committee, which does excellent work carefully considering the diverse array of projects before them and allocating funding between them in compliance with the relevant requirements. Nevertheless, I think as Town Meeting Members it's important for us to be mindful of our financial oversight role and consider carefully how the Town's money is being spent. And in this particular case, I have concerns regarding the “Foot of the Rocks” project.

I recognize the value in the project's goals of commemorating for its 250th anniversary the fighting that occurred in Arlington at the start of the Revolutionary War. However, I have concerns about whether this particular project is the best approach for the following reasons:

- The site is a tiny parcel at a busy, dangerous Mass Ave intersection. The project risks drawing additional traffic and congestion if successful.
- According to the Foot of the Rocks Master Plan, the project would replace a grassy hillside with a leveled paved park, with minimal recreational value to local residents.
- \$450,000 is a large amount of money that could provide much greater benefit spent on affordable housing, open space, or other historical preservation projects.
- Despite this large allocation, the Foot of the Rocks project is expected to only be successful if it secures significant additional funding from other sources. The project has so far not been able to secure such funding.
- Even with this funding, the project will not be completed in time for the 250th anniversary next year.

I respectfully request that Town Meeting consider approving this amendment to ensure that these funds are available for use next year at the CPAC's discretion for other projects such as much-needed affordable housing or historical preservation work at other sites that will more effectively educate the public about Arlington's history.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Xavid Pretzer

Precinct 17

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____